





(Corrected for tilt)

SECTOR 3

SECTOR 3

SECTOR 3

SECTOR 3

SECTOR 1

NO Data

7.4°

SECTOR 1

NO DATA

SECTOR 1

VERTICAL VIEW SHOWING VIKING LANDER 1 ORIENTATION

Grid is in spacecraft coordinates

the rocks that litter the surface, and is banked up behind many of them to form "wind tails" (line 460, sample 340). The rocky rim of Crater C, about 150 m in diameter, forms the horizon at the right, about 80 m from the lander. The rounded crest of a wrinkle ridge known as "white mesa" is also prominent on the horizon (line 100, sample 1000) about 1.2 km from the lander. Footpad 2 of the lander is buried about 16 cm in the dusty material of a drift. Its outline is visible at the lower left (line 1300, sample 750). The surface sampler dug a trench (line 800, sampler 1100) in the drift to obtain soil samples for analysis by instruments on board the lander. As the surface sampler instrument retracted with a sample in its scoop, some of the material spilled on the surface of the drift and formed a track of little pits (line 1050, sample 1200). Other pits and tracks formed by the impact of particles blown off the surface by the rocket engines during landing can be seen at the bottom right of the scene (line 1340, sample 1880). Jarring of the surface when the lander touched down formed cracks in several drifts (line 1420, sample 1700). Some of the rocks littering the surface appear to be fine grained (line 630, sample 1465). However, most are coarse grained (line 700, sample 2050), and may contain coarse crystals or, like many lunar rocks, they may be brecciated. Many rocks have pits and holes that may be vesicles, indicating a volcanic origin. Parts of the lander that are visible in the mosaic are the mounting structure (line 900, sample 50), stroke gauge (line 720, sample 90), and shock absorber (line 1040, sample 330) of leg 2. The tubular structure that crosses the center of the scene is the meteorology boom and its hinge (line 800, sample 700). A metal brush for cleaning the magnets on the surface sampler instrument is on the end of a short boom (line 1220, sample 1600).

**DESCRIPTION OF SCENE** 

East of the lander, the martian scene displays,

conspicuous drifts of fine-grained material (line

200, sample 580). The drifts are 10 to 20 m from

the lander. Some of their wind-sculptured surfaces

which suggest cyclic deposition. The fine-grained

material also blankets much of the area between

expose internal layering (line 300, sample 1000),

THE VIKING MISSION Two Viking spacecraft, each consisting of an orbiter and lander, were launched from Kennedy Space Center on August 20 and September 9, 1975. The Viking 1 spacecraft arrived at Mars on June 19, 1976, and was placed in a highly elliptic orbit around the planet at a periapsis altitude of nearly 1500 km. The orbiter cameras were used in conjunction with other instrumental methods to find a suitable landing site for the lander. After about 30 days in orbit, the lander was separated from the orbiter, and on July 20, 1976, Viking Lander 1 touched down on the surface of Mars at lat 22.483° N.\* and long 47.968° W. (Morris and Jones, 1980) on the west edge of a large basin called Chryse Planitia. It landed in a stable position at a 3° tilt downward in the direction 284.9° clockwise from north. The side of the lander on which the two cameras are mounted faces southeast. When the cameras are pointed in a direction normal to the front of the lander, the viewing direction is 141.6° clockwise from north along the horizon. The first picture from the surface of Mars, of an area near the lander's footpad 3, was taken immediately after landing by camera 2. During the ensuing 43 days, the cameras responded to all commands and successfully carried out their assigned mission. On September 2, the activities of Lander 1 were reduced to accommodate the planned receipt of data from Viking Lander 2. On September 3, 1976, Viking Lander 2 successfully landed on Utopia Planitia of Mars (47.966° N., 225.736° W.), more than 6500 km northeast of Lander 1 (Mayo and others, 1977; Davies and others, 1978). Lander 2 faces approximately north and tilts 8.2° downward in the direction of 277.4° clockwise from north. The viewing direction of its cameras when pointed in a direction normal to the front of the lander is 29.0° clockwise from north along the horizon. The cameras on Viking Lander 2 operated successfully for 61 days until the primary mission of both landers was completed on November 15, 1976, at solar During the primary mission, 454 pictures of the martian surface were processed from Viking Lander 1 data and 582 pictures from Viking Lander 2 data. The extended mission of Viking began December 15, after solar conjunction, and ended in June 1978. During this period, an additional 1636 pictures were obtained from Lander 1 data and 1311 pictures from Lander 2 data. A comprehensive description of the Viking primary mission and the results of eight scientific experiments on board the landers were published in the Journal of Geophysical Research (v. 82, no. 28,

Sept. 30, 1977; see References).

others, 1973).

\*Latitudes are areographic (see de Vaucouleurs and

of "camera events" carried out by one of the lander camera systems. Further computer processing of data from a selected number of these events yielded a total of 10 mosaics. Two pairs of mosaics from Lander 1 data (one mosaic from each camera) consisted of one pair made from data taken in the morning (0700-0800 hours) and one pair made with data acquired in midafternoon (1400-1530 hours). Similarly, three pairs of mosaics for the Lander 2 site consisted of one pair between 0700 and 0800 hours, one pair at noon, and one pair between 1700 and 1800 hours. Procedures used for processing the Viking Lander camera data were described by Levinthal and others, (1977). The individual camera events used in each mosaic are identified in the outline of the accompanying camera view. Detailed descriptions and reproductions of these camera events were given by Tucker (1978). Copies of the Viking Lander pictures can be obtained from the National Space Science Data Center, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD., 20771. The Lander camera system (Huck and others, 1975a) has selectable focus settings for a depth of field from 1.2 m to infinity in the high-resolution (0.04° instantaneous field of view) mode. The survey (low-resolution) mode has an instantaneous field of view of 0.12°; this mode was used in the mosaics only where no high-resolution data were acquired. Each complete mosaic extends 342.5° in azimuth, from approximately 5° above the horizon to 60° below. A complete mosaic incorporates approximately 15 million picture elements (pixels). In order to manage the processing of such large data bases, each mosaic was compiled from four individual azimuthal sectors. Most of the data used in the mosaics were selected from the primary mission. In some cases, extended-mission data were included where primary-mission coverage was absent or where the surface was obscured by the sampler arm. Further selection was made on the basis of optimum focus. The image data were photometrically corrected (Huck and others, 1975b; Patterson and others, 1977; Wolfe and others, 1977) for differences caused by variations in exposure and for solar-lighting differences caused by minor time-of-day variations in the pictures of the set. The geometry was then transformed to a local Mars horizon and corrected for geometric camera errors (Patterson and others, 1977; Wolfe, 1979). The corrected pixels composing a sector were then combined by the computer into a single image, and an optimum contrast correction was applied. The mosaics are composites of the best pixels of all the Lander pictures used for each sector. In the computer mosaicking process, the image data derived from the camera events for each sector were assigned priorities on the basis of quality or detail. These data were examined by the computer in sequence according to the priorities, and the best pixels of each data set were used for the mosaic. The computer formatting of the Viking Lander mosaics was done at the Image Processing Laboratories of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif., under the general supervision of Elliott C. Levinthal of the Department of Genetics, Stanford University, who represented the Viking Lander Imaging Team. A detailed description of the multiple steps involved in the construction of the Viking Lander mosaics and an acknowledg-

VIKING LANDER MOSAICS

pictures of the Chryse Planitia and Utopia Planitia landing

sites. Each picture is the product of computer processing on

Earth of digital-image data transmitted from Mars as a result

The Viking Lander cameras acquired many high-resolution

detailed description of the multiple steps involved in the construction of the Viking Lander mosaics and an acknowledgment of the many people who assisted in the project were given by Levinthal (1980).

GEOMETRY OF THE MOSAICS

The cameras on the Viking Lander acquire data by sampling in equal increments of elevation and azimuth angle. In the accompanying mosaic, 8 mm subtends a 1° horizontal or vertical angle, regardless of the place of measurement within the panorama. If the martian surface were flat, one pixel (0.04° on the surface would be 1 mm wide at -60° camera elevation and 2 m wide at the horizon 3 km away. Characteristically for this type of imaging system, most straight lines

in the scene appear curved in the reconstruction. This re-

presentation of the picture data differs from that of a con-

ventional camera having "point perspective" picture geometry, in which rays are projected from object space, through the perspective point in the camera lens, to an image plane in the camera. The geometry of the lander pictures is complicated by additional factors. Because both landers are tilted with respect to the horizon, on the uncorrected pictures the horizon resembles a sine curve. Computer rectification of the pictures results in a straight horizon along which vertical angles can be measured with respect to the local gravity vector, and horizontal angles can be measured from martian north. These angles are not related in any simple way to the azimuth and elevation angles given in "camera coordinates" for the unrectified pictures. There are other geometric distortions due to the camera: optic path distortion that affects a light ray after passes the camera windows; and camera-system distortion, or "bolt-down" errors, that are caused by the way the cameras are mounted on the lander. The geometric transformation used in creating the mosaics took into account the optic path distortion but not the "bolt-down" errors. However, along the horizon, the error in azimuth angle is equal to the rotational "bolt-down" error for each camera to an accuracy of less than 1 pixel. The scale "azimuth angles from Mars north" has been adjusted to take into account this correc-The residual azimuth angle errors are less than 1 pixel along the horizon and become larger with steeper elevation angles and large lander tilts. For the worst case, Lander 2, camera 1, this error is a maximum of  $5.7 \pm 1$  pixels at  $-60^{\circ}$  elevation. The somewhat sinusoidal azimuth-dependent residual elevation error is a maximum of 3 ± 1 pixels for Lander 2, camera 1, and approximately 1 pixel for the other cameras.

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